

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of claims 1-8, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-8, 10, and 11 presently stand rejected as being unpatentable over Lanitis (article titled “Automatic face identification system using flexible appearance models) in view of Cootes (article titled “Active Shape Models – Their Training and Application).

However, the examiner has indicated that claims 9, and 12-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the elements of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The examiner’s indication of allowable subject matter is noted with appreciation. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to include each of the method steps recited in original claim 9, except that the specific equations for the mean shape vector  $\bar{x}$ , matrix A, covariance matrix C and eigenvectors are not included in claim 1. Claim 9 is amended to recite these specific equations, while the method steps now incorporated in claim 1 are removed from claim 9.

It is respectfully submitted that both Lanitis and Cootes fail to disclose or suggest the feature, positively recited in amended claim 1, of performing the statistical face shape model computing step including: computing a mean value of the feature points of the aligned shape vectors to define a mean shape vector  $\bar{x}$ , subtracting each aligned shape vector  $x_a$  by the mean shape vector  $\bar{x}$  to form a matrix A, computing a covariance matrix C of the matrix A, and computing a plurality of principal components according to eigenvectors to form the statistical face shape model. Therefore, claim 1 in the invention is not disclosed or suggested by the cited references and thus is allowable. The other claims are directly or indirectly dependent on claim 1, and thus are distinguished from the prior art by the same reason.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-16 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

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Respectfully submitted,



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